

Meeting Minutes
Madison County Airport Board
Virginia City, Montana
March 14, 2016

Attendees: Tom Miller, John Hauck, Scott Payne, Jim Frey, Peter Fitzgerald

Absentees: Beau Bradley and Ernest Bock

Commissioners: Jim Hart, David Schulz, and Ron Nye

Secretary: Jani Flinn

Visitors: Troy Hunter, Choice Aviation; and Lance Bowser, RPA

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by Board Chairman Tom Miller.

Approval of Minutes: Jim Frey moved to approve the February 8, 2016 recap of Board of Commissioners Meeting minutes, as corrected. Peter Fitzgerald seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Report, Twin Bridges Airport. Instrument approach is an on-going issue with the FAA. The Commissioners were able to work with U.S. Representative Ryan Zinke to gain some visibility from a higher level and will also work with U.S. Senator Steve Daines' staff to send another letter.

Report, Ennis Big Sky Airport: See attached Manager's Report from Choice Aviation. Topics included airport sign repairs, completed projects, and the FBO Report for February. Troy has completed the final Residential Through The Fence Agreement with Verne Brown and Tom Miller, but still needs one from Kruz. The final Rules and Regulations document was completed, but still needs some adjustment to show the appendices. Jani will complete and send to all members.

Prior to Lance submitting his report, the Board discussed their decision to move forward with a new design as dictated by the FAA requirement to change the scope of the airport for "C" expansions and alternatives. Peter Fitzgerald expressed concerns about the options we are being given. He feels that the FAA is dictating our use and we are allowing them to tell us what to do. The projections they came up with have become cost prohibitive in so many areas. What would it take to accommodate current traffic -- and is it feasible to slow it down? Troy feels that now is the time to make the upgrades. According to Lance Bowser, Robert Peccia & Associates, seasonal growth in Ennis housing has seen an increase of 10% each year, and airport usage has increased 30% for the past two years while 3% is the national average. Ennis airport general aviation is moving up very slowly on a slight incline, so we're actually accommodating the larger jets. Hamilton Airport chose not to expand and so did Kalispell. They do not receive FAA funding for improvements. The FAA has made it clear that they will not fund our taxiway and runway repairs unless we move forward with the "C" configuration, based on our history of usage and its projected increase. The Airport Board will have to decide whether to move forward or not. Phase I will need to happen now, and it will take up to eight years to do runway widening and extensions. The current taxiways are in need of

repair this year. After much discussion, it was agreed that the project should move forward.

Robert Peccia & Associates Project Updates: Lance presented the RPA project update attached. Items discussed included:

- Twin Bridges Airport: Will continue tracking instrument approach and 5010 airport master record issues
- Ennis/Big Sky Airport: Contract documents, specifications, and construction plans are complete. A postcard mailer has gone out notifying users of closures – Lance sent it to all EKS registered aircraft owners. A pre-bid conference will be held on March 24, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. at Choice Aviation for the Re-Design Re-Bid. Final Bid opening will be March 31, 2016, at 2:00 p.m. in Virginia City. Independent Fee estimates will be required on the construction administration portion of the engineering contracts. Moving to a “C” classification Airport requires public involvement and Lance has scheduled a public meeting on April 11, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. at Choice Aviation. Potential land acquisitions were also discussed.

****** The Airport Board will have a Telephonic Meeting on Monday, April 4, 2016 at 8:00 a.m. to review final comments and recommendations from Lance Bowser, RPA, and will make a Recommendation of Award to the Board of Commissioners for the re-design re-bid of Phase I.**

Hangar Inquiry at Ennis/Big Sky Airport: Troy informed the board that he has been asked about a 50 x 60 ft. hangar to be build on airport property. The Board discussed lot size and set back requirements and agreed that the Lessee would need to sign the Airport Rules and Regulations, including a lease agreement and approved Airport Layout Plan.

Other Business:

- The Board reviewed copies of the Rules and Regulations and made comments and suggestions. After review, John Hauck moved to approve the Rules and Regulations with Appendices added and send to the County Commissioners for signature. Peter Fitzgerald seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.
- Scott Payne informed the Board that he is working on a Pilot Roundup at the Twin Bridges Airport on May 21, 2016, which will include a Barbeque in the afternoon and encouraged everyone to attend. More information will be posted as it is complete.

With no further business, the meeting was closed at 8:15 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on April 4, 2016 at 8:00 a.m. via Telephone.

Approved and Accepted:

Tom Miller, Chairman
Madison County Airport Board